

# Derivation of the Vlasov equation for short range interactions

Peter Pickl, joint work with Manuela Feistl

Mathematisches Institut  
LMU München

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## The microscopic system

- ▶  $N$  interacting particles (for example stars), Newtonian dynamics
- ▶ Trajectory in phase space:  
 $X = (Q, P) = (q_1, q_2, \dots, q_N, p_1, p_2, \dots, p_N) \in \mathbb{R}^{6N}$
- ▶  $q_j$ : position of particle  $j$   
 $p_j$  momentum (=speed) of particle  $j$
- ▶ Newtonian dynamics:  $\dot{Q} = P$   
 $\dot{P} = F(Q)$   
Force on  $j^{\text{th}}$  particle:  $(F^j)_j = N^{-1+4\beta} \sum_{k \neq j} f(N^\beta(q_j - q_k))$
- ▶ Macroscopic: law of motion for particle density

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Law of large numbers: Replace force by its expectation value.

- ▶  $\rho(t, q(t), p(t)) = \text{const}$
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- ▶ Continuity equation:  $\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\rho + \nabla_q \rho \cdot p + \nabla_p \rho \cdot \bar{f} = 0$
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- ▶ For smooth forces  $f$  (globally Lipschitz) many results (Neunzert and Wick (1974), Braun and Hepp (1977), Spohn (1991)...)   
 Understand  $X_t$  as density:  $\rho_t^{emp} = \sum_{j=1}^N \delta(x - x_j)$    
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$$\rho_0^{emp} \xrightarrow{N \rightarrow \infty} \rho_0 \Rightarrow \rho_t^{emp} \xrightarrow{N \rightarrow \infty} \rho_t$$

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$$f(q) = \pm \frac{q}{|q|^3}$$

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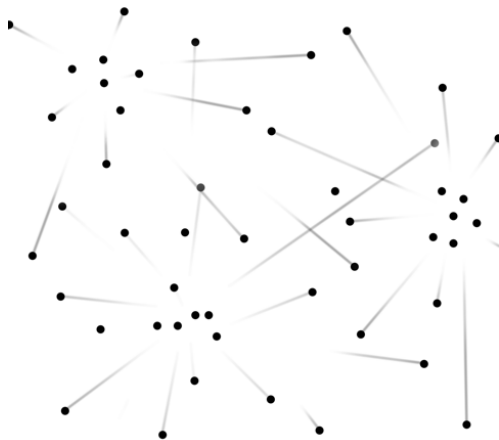
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- ▶ Goal: compare trajectory  $X_t$  with density  $\rho_t$ .
- ▶ Idea: bring  $\rho_t$  to level of trajectories
- ▶ Vlasov equation:  $\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\rho + \nabla_q \rho \cdot p + \nabla_p \rho \cdot (\rho \star_q f) = 0$
- ▶ Define  $\dot{\bar{Q}} = \bar{P}$        $\dot{\bar{P}} = \bar{F}(\bar{Q})$
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